

Message

From: ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]
Sent: 11/9/2018 7:46:01 PM
To: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: Governors' Mansions and State Houses to See New Occupants, U.S. EPA Finalizes Oversight & Regional Reorg Visions, & More

Governors' Mansions and State Houses to See New Occupants, U.S. EPA Finalizes Oversight & Regional Reorg Visions, & More

ECOSWIRE | Vol. 20 No. 44

[View this email in your browser](#)



ECOSWIRE

Friday, November 9, 2018

Vol. 20 No. 44

Table of Contents

- [2018 Midterms Yield Party Flips for Governors and State Legislatures](#)

- [U.S. EPA Issues Oversight Principles Consistent with ECOS CF2.0](#)
 - [U.S. EPA Releases Final Regional Realignment Plan](#)
 - [EPA Issues Final State Plans Rule for Ground-Level Ozone Standards](#)
 - [EPA Finalizes Action to Reform New Source Review](#)
 - [Mark Your Calendar for Newly Announced ECOS Meetings](#)
 - [State News You Can Use](#)
 - [Need-to-Know News in Land and Waste & Water](#)
 - [ITRC](#)
 - [Upcoming Events](#)
-

2018 Midterms Yield Party Flips for Governors and State Legislatures



Changes are coming to a number of Governors' mansions and state houses this January.

The 36 gubernatorial races held this week will result in 19 new state Governors. Eight of the new Governors represent a change in party, with the states of Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wisconsin switching from Republican to Democrat and Alaska flipping from Independent to Republican. The nationwide total will stand at 26 Republicans and 23 Democrats, with the Georgia outcome still undecided.

More than 6,000 state legislators also were elected this week. The results flipped control of eight state legislative bodies, with six changing from Republican to Democrat, one from Democrat to Republican, and one from tied to Democrat. And for the first time since 1914, only one state – Minnesota – will have a divided legislature with the two chambers led by different parties.

For detailed information, see gubernatorial results compiled by the National Governors Association [here](#) and state legislative results compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures [here](#). [Parisien/Hanson]

U.S. EPA Issues Oversight Principles Consistent with ECOS CF2.0

This week, U.S. EPA Acting Deputy Administrator Henry Darwin shared with the ECOS leadership a much-anticipated memo on federal oversight that draws on the ECOS Cooperative Federalism 2.0 principles. Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler originally sent his October 30 memo, “Principles and Best Practices for Oversight of Federal Environmental Programs Implemented by States and Tribes,” to Assistant and Deputy Administrators and Regional and Deputy Regional Administrators.

ECOS members will recall that Darwin briefed states on the forthcoming memo at the 2018 ECOS Fall Meeting in Vermont. The ECOS Cooperative Federalism Oversight Workgroup, led by Pat Stevens of Wisconsin and David Paylor of Virginia, has worked closely with Darwin and the EPA Oversight Team on this and related efforts.

The memo discusses the formats in which EPA performs oversight of states and tribes: formal, retrospective reviews; regular meetings and discussions; and matter-specific consultation. It also establishes four key principles informing EPA’s oversight: general deference to states and tribes in their implementation of federal programs; effective communication; clear standards of review; and predictable processes and a clear process

for elevating issues. EPA plans to evaluate these principles on a biannual basis in coordination with regions, states, and tribes.

The memo complements a 1984 memo by William Ruckelshaus, the first head of U.S. EPA, entitled "EPA Policy on Oversight of State Delegated Environmental Programs."

ECOS emailed the memo to members today. For more information, please contact [Beth Graves](#) of ECOS. [Graves]

U.S. EPA Releases Final Regional Realignment Plan

U.S. EPA this week issued its [final regional realignment plan](#) designed to promote uniformity in organizational structure with Headquarters and across Regions. The blueprint maintains all 10 regional offices and establishes the following new standard structure for each office:

- Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, and the following divisions:
 - Air and Radiation;
 - Administration and Resource Management (to include Office of Administration and Resources Management, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Office of Environmental Information functions);
 - Enforcement and Compliance Assurance;
 - Land and Redevelopment (to include Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and Brownfields functions);
 - Superfund and Emergency Management;
 - Water;
 - Laboratory Services and Applied Science; and
 - Regional Counsel (to include the Freedom of Information Act program).

Among other objectives, the plan aims to promote coordination between EPA National Programs and their regional counterparts and provide greater transparency for EPA customers. The reorganization does not move staff geographically, reduce or demote staff, or make any changes to specific regional or geographic programs. [Parisien]

EPA Issues Final State Plans Rule for Ground-Level Ozone Standards

On November 8, [U.S. EPA released](#) its final state implementation plan Requirements Rule for implementing the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone. According to the agency, the rule will help states and tribes develop implementation plans to meet the 2015 ozone standards, while providing the greatest flexibility possible.

The final rule enables states to use Clean Air Act tools for regulatory relief for certain areas, including areas that could meet ozone standards but for international contributions outside of their control.

For more information, please see [EPA's website](#). [Poole]

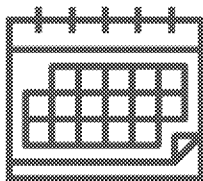
EPA Finalizes Action to Reform New Source Review

On November 7, EPA restored a long-delayed 2009 EPA action that clarifies “project aggregation” for the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program.

“Project aggregation” refers to the assessment by owners and permitting authorities of whether multiple related physical or operational changes to a facility should be considered a single “project” for NSR applicability. The final action identifies clear principles for project aggregation and will serve as a guide for facilities when considering or undergoing modifications.

For more information, visit [EPA's website](#). [Poole]

Mark Your Calendar for Newly Announced ECOS Meetings



Please mark your calendars for a few more upcoming ECOS gatherings! Dates with an asterisk have not previously been announced.

2019 Spring Meeting

April 8-10

New Member Orientation with officers and current members during the late afternoon of April 7*

Crystal City, Virginia

2019 State Environmental Protection (STEP) Meeting

July 10*

Washington, DC

2019 Fall Meeting

September 24-26

Seattle, Washington

2020 Spring Meeting

March 30-April 1

Asheville, North Carolina

2020 Fall Meeting

Dates TBD

Park City, Utah

[Parisien]

State News You Can Use



[Energy Company Remedies Air Violations at Natural Gas Facilities in Six States](#)

[Nevada Awards VW Settlement Funds for Air Quality Improvement Projects](#)

[Wyoming Launches Open Air Website](#)

Need-to-Know News in Land and Waste & Water

Reminder: Deadline Next Week for State Nominees for E-Manifest Advisory Board

Area of Focus: [Land and Waste](#)

U.S. EPA invites nominations of qualified candidates for consideration for a three-year appointment to the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Advisory Board. Among the openings is for a state representative member responsible for processing manifests.

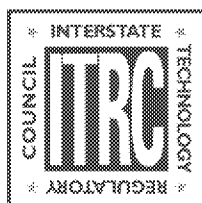
Nominations should be received on or before **November 16**. For more information, please visit the [Federal Register](#) for the announcement. You may also contact [Fred Jenkins, Jr.](#), PhD, Designated Federal Officer of the e-Manifest Advisory Board. [Parisien]

U.S. EPA Announces PISCES Clean Water Infrastructure Award Winners

Area of Focus: [Water](#)

This week, U.S. EPA recognized 30 projects for excellence and innovation within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. EPA's Performance and Innovation in the SRF Creating Environmental Success (PISCES) program celebrates innovation demonstrated by CWSRF programs and assistance recipients. CWSRF programs have provided more than \$132 billion in financing for water quality infrastructure over the past 31 years.

Learn more about the 2018 PISCES recognized projects [here](#). [Piper]



ITRC

[Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council](#)

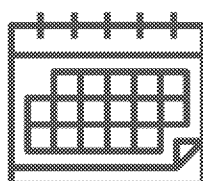
ITRC on Managing PFAS Contamination

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council will hold a PFAS training class in Grand Rapids, Michigan on **December 13**. This daylong class will review site characterization

(sampling and analysis), complex mechanisms that impact fate and transport, current and potential remediation technologies, AFFF, and PFAS risk communications. State and federal environmental and health agencies, tribes, local governments, communities and others are encouraged to attend.

The training class is free for state and federal employees, academics, and public stakeholders. Travel scholarships are available for state staff.

Please contact [Tadbir Singh](#) of ECOS for more information. Learn more and register [here](#).
[Olonoff]



Upcoming Events

ECOS and U.S. EPA on Compliance Research for Effective Government

ECOS and U.S. EPA are hosting a new webinar series entitled *Compliance Research for Effective Government*. The series will help state and EPA program administrators understand how collaboration with academics can identify effective and measurable approaches to compliance.

The future webinar schedule is:

- **November 29, 2-3 p.m. Eastern: Compliance Assurance Toolbox.** David Hindin, Office of Compliance, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, EPA.

- **December 11, 1-2 p.m. Eastern: New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Generator Training Program.** Tim Prospert, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and Dr. Sarah Strafford, College of William and Mary.

Register for the webinars [here](#). For more information, please contact Sonia Altieri of ECOS. [Altieri]

U.S. EPA on R2R2R

U.S. EPA will host its monthly tools and resources webinar on **November 14 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. This webinar will highlight Remediation to Restoration to Revitalization (R2R2R), a framework for translating ecological consequences from remediation to restoration projects into environmental and socioeconomic benefits such as swimmable water, enhanced recreational amenities, and green spaces. EPA's Office of Research Development hopes the effort will help states, Regions, and other partners to clean up contaminated sites in ways that not only reduce health and environmental risks, but that also help return these sites as valuable assets for local communities.

To register, see [here](#). [Longworth]

U.S. EPA on New Lean Management System

U.S. EPA invites states to attend its EPA Lean Management System (ELMS) Summit planned for **November 28-30** in Dallas, Texas. The meeting will feature ELMS trainings and presentations by a number of high-level EPA officials, as well as presentations by the Nebraska and Arizona Departments of Environmental Quality on their own lean management systems.

Interested states should contact [Owen McAleer](#) of ECOS for more information on meeting attendance and potential travel funding. State spots are limited and responses are requested by COB **November 6**. [McAleer]

U.S. EPA on Methane Mitigation

U.S. EPA's Natural Gas STAR and Methane Challenge Programs invite states to participate in the *Data-Driven Decision Making for Cost-Effective Methane Emission Mitigation* Workshop on **December 14**. ECOS has partnered with these U.S. EPA

programs on methane reduction through the Shale Gas Caucus.

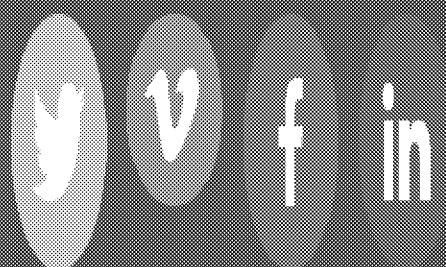
The workshop, to be held at Pacific Gas and Electric's facility in downtown San Francisco, will focus on the use of data and analytics in the oil and natural gas industry to drive operational changes to mitigate methane emissions. The workshop is free, but registration is required. Learn more and register [here](#). [Parisien]

U.S. EPA on ECHO

States are invited to join U.S. EPA for its next Intro to ECHO (Enforcement and Compliance History Online) webinar on **December 18**. This webinar is one in a series that provides basic demonstrations of searching and navigating the website. Participants will learn how to use ECHO in your communities and workplaces to identify facility history with compliance and enforcement. Note that this webinar is repeated every six months. Registration will open soon [here](#).

The subsequent ECHO Webinar will be held in March 2019, with details posted on the ECHO training page in early 2019. Topics for future webinars will be selected based on [user feedback](#), and every six months U.S. EPA will highlight a new tool.

For more information, contact [Rebecca Kane](#) of EPA. [Piper]



[Visit ECOS.org](http://VisitECOS.org)

Copyright © 2018 Environmental Council of the States. All rights reserved. ECOSWIRE is a weekly service to ECOS members and alumni. No federal funds are spent on this newsletter. Permission is granted for our members to reproduce for state government purposes.

Our mailing address is:

Environmental Council of the States
50 F St NW Ste 350
Washington, DC 20001-1770

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

